

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 OMB-01 IO-12 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

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FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3051

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1456

EO 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: XF, EG

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST PEACE, EGYPT, AND THE US

SUMMARY: LATEST GLEANINGS FROM DIPLOMATIC AND JOURNAL-
ISTIC CIRCLES SUGGEST GOE, WHILE SCREENING ITS INTENTIONS
SOMEWHAT, SEES FORTHCOMING SC DEBATE ON ME AS FORUM
FOR EXCULPATION PRELIMINARY TO MORE DRASTIC ACTION FOR
WHICH THEY ALSO LINING UP SUPPORT BY FEISAL AND OTHERS.
ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO INDICATION OF CHANGE IN SUBSTANCE
OF EGYPT' S POSITION OR ITS VIEW OF US POSITION, THERE
IS SOME INDICATION BREZHNEV VISIT TO WASHINGTON ALSO
RELEVANT TO EVOLVING SCENARIO IN CAIRO. END SUMMARY.

1. ON SC DEBATE, ITALIAN AMBASSADOR PLAJA SAYS HE TOO
IS TOLD BY ZAYYAT THAT EGYPT' S PLANS NOT YET MADE .

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PLAJA BELIEVES (AND IT SEEMS PLAUSIBLE) THAT GOE IS ANXIOUS TO HAVE SOME SHOW OF ACTIVITY IF NOT OF ACCOMPLISHMENT GOING ON AT TIME OF ANNIVERSARY SIX- DAY WAR. GERMAN AMBASSADOR STELTZER SAYS, HOWEVER, THAT GHORBAL TOLD HIM THAT WHAT GOE WANTS IS TO GET ON THE RECORD ALL THAT EGYPT HAS DONE TO TRY TO ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT; STELTZER FINDS NO RPT NO INDICATION AT ALL OF FLEXIBILITY IN EGYPTIAN VIEW OF WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN AFTER THAT. BOTH AMBASSADORS FIND THAT GOE STILL HOPES SECURITY COUNCIL, AND MORE PARTICULARLY USG, WILL " DO SOMETHING."

2. PERHAPS RELEVANT IS PLAJA' S FURTHER COMMENT TO ME THAT THE NEW MINISTER OF TOURISM, ISMAIL FAHMY, TOLD HIM THAT HE HAS BEEN ASSIGNED BY SADAT TO A THREE- MAN INNER COUNCIL ON THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM; THE OTHER TWO MEMBERS ARE ZAYYAT AND HAFEZ ISMAIL. THIS IS CERTAINLY CONSISTENT WITH FAHMY' S KNOWN ZEALOUS INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT, AND IT MAY ALSO BE WORTH RECALLING THAT HE ONCE EXPOUNDED TO ME ON ANALOGIES BETWEEN VIETNAM PEACE AGREEMENT AND POSSIBLE CONTENT OF MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT (CAIRO 300, FEB. 1).

3. ARNAUD DE BORCHGRAVE HAS BEEN MAKING THE ROUNDS AND SAYS GHORBAL AND HEYKAL HAVE GIVEN HIM TO UNDERSTAND THAT SC DEBATE IS CALCULATED TO ESTABLISH AS NECESSARY AND PRELIMINARY JUSTIFICATION FOR MILITARY ACTION, HOW MANY CONCESSIONS EGYPT HAS MADE IN PURSUIT OF SETTLEMENT, AND HOW ISRAEL (AND US) HAVE STONEWALLED (SIC).

4. THEY HAVE ALSO TOLD DE BORCHGRAVE GOE HAS FIRM UNDERSTANDING WITH FEISAL THAT IF GOE COMES UP WITH CLEAR PLAN OR SCENARIO, FEISAL WILL CUT OFF (OR CUT BACK) OIL PRODUCTION TO SUPPORT IT-- E. G., WHEN MILITARY ACTION BEGINS. GHORBAL REFLECTED SOME DOUBT THAT FEISAL WAS SINCERE AND WOULD FULFILL HIS PROMISES IN THE CLUTCH; OTHER EGYPTIAN SOURCES TELL US SEPARATELY THAT FEISAL' S REPLY WAS POSITIVE, BUT NOT ONE HUNDRED PERCENT SATISFACTORY. (I HAVE APPOINTMENT WITH SAUDI AMBASSADOR NAZIR MAY 21.) GHORBAL ALSO TOLD DE BORCHGRAVE EGYPTIAN " PLAN OF ACTION" WAS TO BE READY BY FIRST WEEK OF JUNE, AND ADVISED HIM TO BE BACK IN CAIRO FOR SEVERAL WEEKS
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BEGINNING JUNE 12. THIS BORCHGRAVE PLANS TO DO. HEYKAL EVEN ASKED BORCHGRAVE WHETHER HE THOUGHT THE MILITARY AS DISTINGUISHED FROM POLITICAL PARTS OF THE SCENARIO COULD MOST EFFECTIVELY BE INITIATED BEFORE, DURING OR AFTER BREZHNEV VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

5. BORCHGRAVE ALSO SAYS THAT DURING HIS INTERVIEW WITH

SADAT LAST MARCH, LATTER RECALLED CASUALTIES VIET CONG
TOOK IN TET OFFENSIVE AND NORTH VIETNAMESE TOOK IN '72
ATTACK, AND POINTED OUT THAT RESULT HAS BEEN WITHDRAWAL
OF US FORCES FROM VIETNAM. (IF SADAT REALLY IS MAKING
ANALOGY, HOWEVER WEIRD, OR NORTH VIETNAMESE SITUATION
TO HIS OWN, PROSPECT OF ERUPTION OF FIGHTING MAY NOT BE
REMOTE.)

6. COMMENT: THERE IS UNDOUBTEDLY ELEMENT OF
PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE IN EGYPTIANS TALKING TO BORCHGRAVE
AS HE ALLEGES, TO SUPPLEMENT OTHER EFFORTS THEY ARE MAKING
TO PRESSURE USG.
GREENE

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